YOUNG-HUNTER, John

DRAWER 19A

Artists- Y

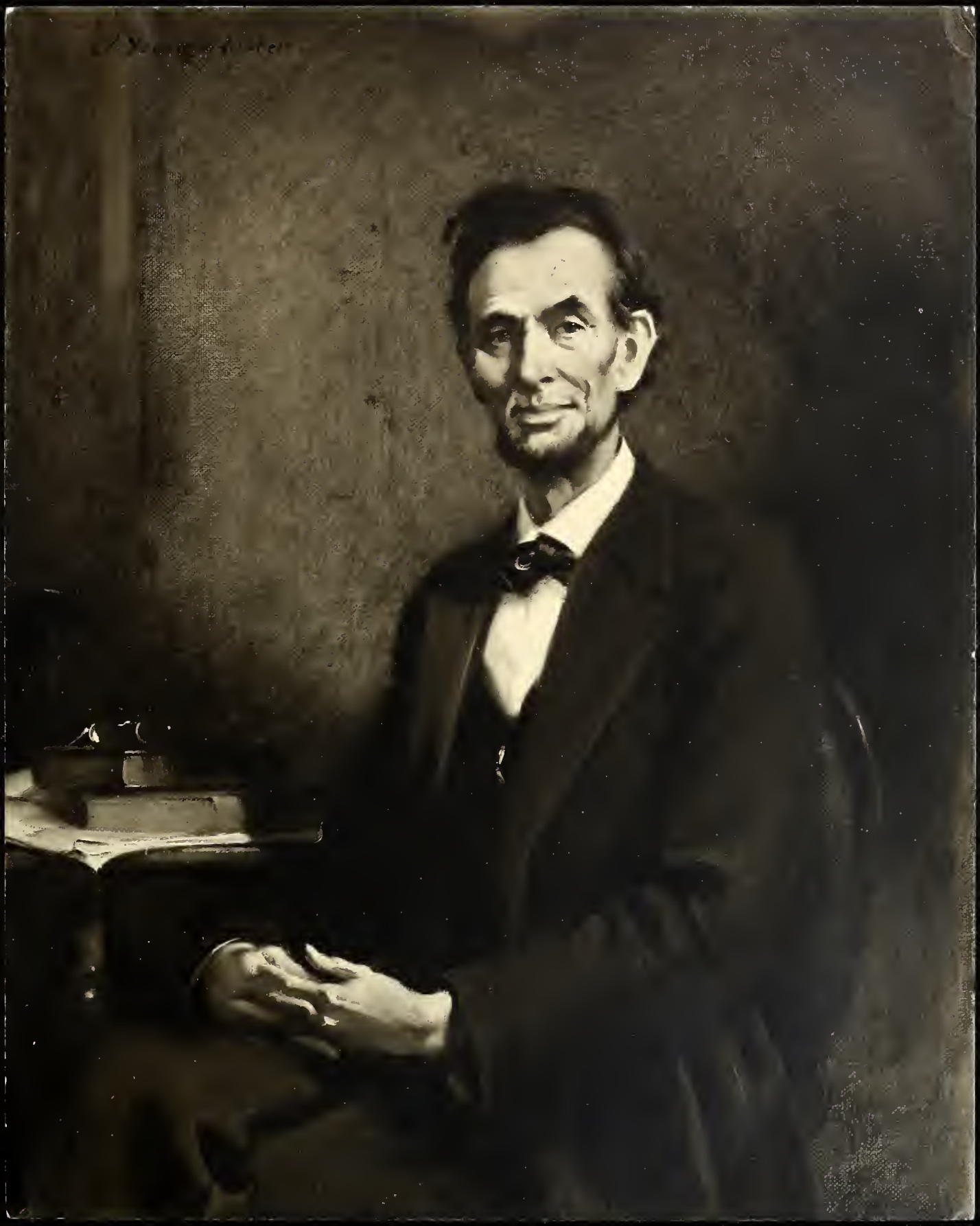
Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

John Young-Hunter

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Portrait of Abraham Lincoln by
John Young-Hunter

size 24" x 30"

MEMORIAL EXHIBITION

TO

John Young-Hunter

Harwood Foundation
University of New Mexico
Taos, New Mexico

June 17 thru June 30
1956

Self Portrait

JOHN YOUNG-HUNTER

Born Glasgow, Scotland, October 29, 1874
Died Taos, New Mexico, August 9, 1955

JOHN YOUNG-HUNTER

Like many fine artists, John Young-Hunter was a combination of diverse tastes and abilities. His work shows how skillfully he harmonized them.

Many of his paintings are contemporary portraits. In these, Young-Hunter was a worthy successor of that remarkable portraitist, Sargent. He was interested both in the technical problems of composition, colour-harmony, and texture, and also in the psychological problem of conveying not only his subject's external appearance, but also something of the person's character and attitude to life. It is hard to solve all these problems at once; but Young-Hunter succeeded in doing so. The best of his pictures in this style belong to the central tradition of portraiture. Many years from now, they will still tell the onlooker something about the men and women whom Young-Hunter knew and painted, and painted so well because he knew them well.

Besides these, he left a body of distinguished work in a very different vein. These are pictures of the life of the old West, documents of an epoch which has now almost entirely disappeared. They may well live longer than his portraits, because of their unusual historical interest. Not many expert artists have been able to set down the life of Indians and frontiersmen because very few have ever seen it closely enough to be able to convert it into durable art. In this, Young-Hunter might be called a colleague and a successor of Frederic Remington. He loved the life of the West. He rode; he hunted; he lived on lonely ranches, and spent much time with Indian tribes. The instinctive sympathy he felt for that bold and dangerous life comes out in his western pictures and assures their permanent value.

Young-Hunter used to say that he liked the Indians, because although they were savages, they were also gentlemen. That saying helps us to understand him, and to appreciate his work as a whole. He liked painting portraits of elegant women and distinguished men, as he enjoyed having good books and furniture around him — because he himself was a gentleman with fine feelings. But also, he enjoyed painting a lonely Indian on a haggard horse, or a circle of hard brown faces round a campfire, as he enjoyed living in the West — because he was also a primitive man, with strong passions well controlled. To harmonize these divergent characters was not easy; but Young-Hunter contrived to do so. The discords which might have arisen were resolved both by the disciplined power of his artistic talent, and by his deep and sincere humility.

Gilbert Highet

Feathers and Paint

PAINTINGS

1 Crow Indians Moving Camp

2 Christmas Eve Procession—Taos Pueblo

3 "Feathers and Paint"

4 Indian Legend

5 "Thoughts of By-Gone Day"

6 "Purple and Gold"

7 Tavita

8 Porto Fino, Italy

9 Santa Catalina Mountains, Tucson

10 "Squally Weather"

11 Trout Lake, Colorado

12 An Adobe House

13 Freight Carriers of Old Mexico

14 Mazatlan — Mexico

15 "Tea-Time"

16 Market Day

17 "Jack and Jill"

18 Self Portrait

19 Mrs. Mabel Dodge Luhan

20 Eve

21 Elizabeth

22 The Monk

23 "Vermillion and Grey"

24 Mariposa Flowers

25 "Storm Over New Mexico" (watercolor)

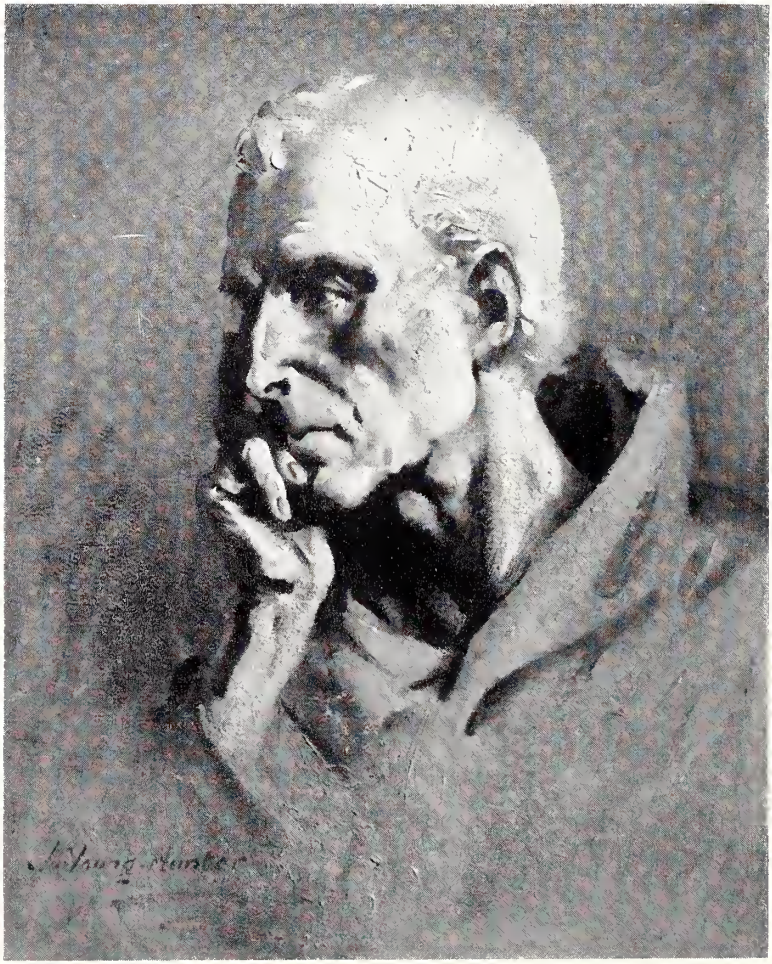
26 Pink Roses

27 Venetian Blinds

28 Ala-Mae

29 Red Hair

30 Casa Humboldt, Tasco, Mexico



The Monk

(3)

MRS. JOHN YOUNG - HUNTER
TAOS, NEW MEXICO

May 15, 1957.

To
The Manager
The Lincoln Insurance Co.
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Sir:

It has been suggested that I write to you, since your Company owns an excellent collection of Lincoln portraits both original and prints.

I am, therefore, taking the liberty of enclosing, herewith, a photograph of a portrait my husband painted of Mr. Lincoln.

It was painted from a little known photograph that appeared in a New York newspaper some years ago.

I am enclosing, also, a catalogue of his memorial Exhibition; this will tell you somewhat of my husbands work. The article, was written by Dr. Gilbert Highet a distinguished author and presently a member of the Board of Judges of the Book of the Month Club.

My husband's estate has now been settled and I am free to sell the pictures left to me.

Please would you be able to help me, either by way of suggestions or possibly by interesting your Company in this portrait.

I shall be most grateful for your kind consideration of this matter.

Thanking you — I am most sincerely yours —

(Mrs John) Eve R. Young-Hunter

May 22, 1959

Mrs. John Young-Hunter
Taos, New Mexico

Dear Mrs. Young-Hunter:

Your letter addressed to the Manager of the Lincoln Insurance Company of Springfield, Illinois has been transferred to the Home Office of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. As I am the Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation your letter has been brought to my attention.

From your letter I note that you have for sale a portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by your husband John Young-Hunter.

We have quite a number of Lincoln portraits in our collection, however, we are always interested in acquiring new items.

Will you please let me know what you are asking for your portrait.

Hoping to hear from you in regard to this matter I remain

Yours sincerely,

RGMcMurtry:mv

Director

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